Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05330 241642Z

46
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

XMB-07 RSR-01 /047 W
---------- 041051
R 241245Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 5330

COMMERCE PASS EXIMBANK.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, PINS, AR.
SUBJECT: PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY OF FOREIGN VISITORS IN ARGENTINA.

REF: STATE A-5546.

1. ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS WE HAVE SEEN EVIDENCE THAT SOME AMERICAN BUSINEESMEN PLANNING VISITS TO ARGENTINA HAVE BEEN GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY IN ARGENTINA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN ONE CASE, BRAZILIAN MANUFACTURERS OF LEATHER GOODS AT AN EXPOSITION OF SUCH PRODUCTS IN BRAZIL SUGGESTED TO SEVERAL AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ATTEN A COMPETITIVE LEATHER GOODS EXPOSITION IN ARGENTINA, ALLEGING THAT THEIR SAFETY WAS UNCERTAIN. WE ALSO HEARD THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME AMERICAN FOOD AND FOOD PACKAGING MACHINERY COMPANIES ABORTED A PLANNED TRIP TO BUENOS AIRES AND STAYED IN MONTEVIDEO FOR THE SAME REASON.

2. APPARENTLY, ACCORDING TO REFAIR, COMMERCE IS HAVING DIFFICULTY RECRUITING FOR NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTS EXHIBITION IN OCTOBER BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY ABOUT PROSPECTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUENOS 05330 241642Z

FOR PUBLIC ORDER.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

3. ON JULY 16 WE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM SENIOR OFFICIALS OF
FCIA WHO INFORMED US THEY HAVE CANCELLED PLANNED TO TRIP TO ARGENTINA
BECAUSE THEY HAVE HEARD THERE IS DOUBT ABOUT SAFETY OF VISITORS.

4. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BOMBING OF THE SHERATON HOTEL ON
OCTOBER 16, 1972, THERE HAS BEEN NO CASE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE,
OF ANY AMERICAN OR OTHER FOREIGN BUSINESS VISITOR OR TOURIST BEING
ATTACKED OR PLACED IN DANGER, EVEN DURING THE HEIGHT OF EVENTS
SUCH AS THE DISTURBANCES AT AIRPORT UPON RETURN OF FORMER PRESIDENT
PERON. EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS
LIKELY TO BE ANY CHANGE IN THIS SITUATION. FOR ANYONE USING A
MINIMUM OF COMMON SENSE, BUENOS AIRES IS A MUCH SAFER CITY TO
WALK AROUND IN, DAY OR NIGHT, THAN MANY LARGE CITIES IN THE U.S.
MANY FOREIGN VISITORS, BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISTS, INCLUDING
AMERICANS, ARE CONTINUING TO COME TO BUENOS AIRES WITHOUT
DIFFICULTIES OR COMPLICATIONS, ALTHOUGH, ADMITTEDLY, FEWER THAN
WOULD COME IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SENSATIONAL PLAY GIVEN KIDNAPPINGS
AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST. KIDNAPPING OF BUSINESSMEN
BY URBAN GUERRILLAS HAS AFFECTED FEW AMERICANS (ONLY TWO HAVE BEEN
KIDNAPPED), AND THESE WERE EXECUTIVES OF AMERICAN FIRMS BASED
IN ARGENTINA, AND WELL KNOWN IN THE COMMUNITY.
THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY TARGETED AND WATCHED CLOSELY FOR
A CONSIDERABLE TIME BEFORE ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST THEM.

5. THE U.S. SHOULD NOT LOSE EXPORTS BECAUSE OF EXCESSIVE AND
UNNECESSARY CAUTION ON THE PART OF REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S.
EXPORTERS. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT USDOC PUBLISH IN
"COMMERCE TODAY", AND OTHERWISE DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ALONG
THE FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE: EMBASSY, BUENOS AIRES, INFORMS
THAT IT CONTINUES TO HEAR UNCONFORMED REPORTS THAT
U.S. COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS HAVE
CANCELLED OR POSTPONED VISITS TO BUENOS AIRES IN RECENT WEEKS,
APPARENTLY BECAUSE THEY WERE CONCERNED OVER SUPPOSEDLY ABNORMAL
RISKS TO THEIR PERSONAL SECURITY. WHILE A DECISION OF
THIS SHORT IS NATURALLY AND ALWAYS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED, THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO
REPORTED INCIDENTS INVOLVING MOLESTATION OR HARASSMENT TO FOREIGN
BUSINESS VISITORS TO ARGENTINA DURING THE PAST 9 MONTHS. THE
EMBASSY REPORTS THAT BUSINESS TRAVELERS AND TOURISTS CONTINUE TO
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PAGE 03 BUENOS 05330 241642Z

RECEIVED NORMAL FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS TREATMENT WHEN VISITING
BUENOS AIRES. UNQUOTE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO THE LAST PART OF THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF REFAIR,
THE EMBASSY WILL BE TRANSMITTING WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO THE
SEMI-ANUAL ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT WHICH WILL REVIEW PROSPECTS
FOR U.S. PRIVATE BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN ARGENTINA IN GENERAL. WITH
SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE NUCLEAR INSTRUMENT AND APPARATUS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

EXHIBITION, WE BELIEVE THAT PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT, AND
THAT IF A GOOD GROUP OF EXHIBITORS IS RECRUITED, THE TRADE
CENTER WILL CHALK UP ANOTHER SUCCESS. FYI. TO DATE THE
TRADE CENTER, WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN THOUGHT A GOOD TARGET
FOR THE EXTREMISTS, HAS NOT EVEN HAD ITS BIG PLATE GLASS
WINDOW PAINTED WITH USUAL POLITICAL GRAFFITI. END FYI.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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